

FAITH at WORK

August 2025

Dear People of God at Faith Lutheran Church,

Jesus taught with stories, parables, using everyday concepts and life experiences in order to communicate something of the reality of God's kingdom. Some of his parables are beautiful in helping us see a bit more of God's reign in this world. Others, well, not so much. Hahaha!

I was thinking about some parables of Jesus, and what they might mean for us today. Do they have some measure of insight for this time of transition in Faith's life?

In Matthew 13 there are seven and one-half parables all about the God's reign in the world. Added in are two explanations of two parables for the disciples' sake. The chapter ends with three short parables and a question. These are so apropos for this time and place.

From 13:44-52 Jesus goes deep with his disciples on God's reign. First, the parable of the treasure hidden in a field and discovered, then the purchase of the field for the sake of owning the treasure. The second is a parable of a merchant searching for the finest of pearls and on find one supreme pearl sells everything to buy that pearl. And the third parable is about sorting fish after hauling in the full net.

All of these seem to be telling of the search and acquisition of something of great value. The hidden treasure and the priceless pearl tell of giving up every possession in order to afford buying that thing of immeasurable worth, to possess it. The third parable of the full fishing net tells of sorting through the fish to keep the good fish for sale, throwing out the bad, so as not to weigh down the catch.

When Jesus was finished teaching his followers about the kingdom of God, he asks them, "Have you understood all this?" They answer that they get it! Really? Then J compares those who understand about the kingdom of God to someone who sorts through their treasures and "brings out" what is new and old. Problem. The word that's been translated for "brings out" tends to mean to throw away, get rid of, no longer possess.

"Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who throws out of his treasure what is new and what is old (Matt 13:52.)" WOW! What does that mean? How does that help us understand God's reign in this time and place?

The thing is, God is up to something in this world. And God is up to something in you also. It's the Kingdom of God being shaped and built and reworked and remodeled and torn down and ... God is constantly working on the kingdom, which is being built here and now. The reign of God is not static, it is dynamic. DYNAMIC! Alive and evolving! With every time and age and place, God is at work. So what do that mean for Faith? For you?

Faith Lutheran Church

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Some thoughts come to my mind. The way we have always done things no longer works for God's reign in this present time. Our vision of "church" is not God's vision for the Body of Christ. If we are not willing to let go of (throw away) what doesn't work any longer, or come to terms with Faith's current reality, then we have sold the field or the pearl of great value. Then we have lost sight of what is at the heart of God's reign. It is not possessions, or the way we have done "church" or whatever we continue to hold on to as if it were a life raft. God is not in the business of survival. God is all about new life. A life filled with all of God's mercy and grace and love for the world. The reign of God is our desire as people of faith in the One who came to show us abundant life through Christ Jesus.

Maybe you need to let go of some things that have impeded God's reign in your own life. Maybe you can write down what those are and then find a way to let go and trust God's reign in your life.

I am reminded of Matthew 9:17 where J talks about not putting new wine into old wineskins. That our faith, joy, and hope in Christ Jesus is being renewed and cannot be contained in what has been, but in the new and on-going building of the reign of God among us.

Not easy stuff, but necessary for our renewal and hope for the mission of Faith, however God will transform it. Send your Spirit, O God. Come and build anew. Show us your vision of the path ahead. Come!

May God's reign continue to grow in each of us,

Pastor Dorthy+

From Church Council

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Faith,

Our 75-year celebration is in 2 short weeks, hopefully everyone that is planning on attending has sent in their RSVP's so we know how many people to plan for. It will be a 2-day celebration August 16 & 17. Linda Gail Voet, Jan Wetzel are continuing to work on the event. Unfortunately Nancy George took a fall and broke her knee cap and has had to step aside. Mary Sabatka Gamet has offered to help. I am looking forward to celebrating this great event.

This past 2 weeks, myself, Jon Aaberg, George Hunt & Terry Virnig have been helping out with some projects at Luther House helping them get ready for the new school year. We cleaned and painted the basement floor, a project Pastor Hallie has been wanting done for several years. It really changed the appearance of the basement for the better. We have also repaired some furniture, trimmed hedges, mowed and edged the lawn. If anyone would like to give them a hand, contact Pastor Hallie. I'm sure she can find you a sit down job if that is what you prefer.

We will still be having Good Shepard over for coffee time on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and we will continue to attend worship there on the 4th & 5th Sundays of the month.

Council meetings are now on the 2nd Monday of the month at Noon in the conference room. You are always welcome to join us. Bring your lunch!

Blessings,

Gordy Gamet



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

U.S. FLOODING LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

ELCA.org/flooding

In the face of disaster, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow.

Flooding is one of the most common natural disasters in the United States. Across the country, we support communities as they recover from devastating floodwaters. LDR works with synods and partners to respond to urgent needs, give emotional and spiritual care, support long-term recovery (including disaster case management and meeting unmet needs), and provide educational training for synods and partners in affected regions.

Lutheran Disaster Response works through strong partnerships with ELCA synods, congregations and other organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to LDR support our church's work to share healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

..... **YES, I WANT TO HELP!**

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response \$ _____ DDG0060
☐ U.S. Flooding \$ _____ DDG0069

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Scan to
give online



Give through your congregation, by phone (800-638-3522) or by mail. Checks or money orders can be mailed to **Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**

BI-LDRFLOOD25

Down the lanes of August

Down the lanes of August,
and the bees upon the wing,
All the world's in color now,
and all the song birds sing;
Never reds will redder be,
more golden be the gold,
Down the lanes of August,
and the summer getting old.

Mother Nature's brushes
now with paints are dripping wet,
Gorgeous is her canvas,
with the tints we can't forget;
Here's a yellow wheat field,
purple asters there,
Riotous the colors,
that she's splashing everywhere.

Red the cheeks of apples,
and pink the peaches' bloom,
Redolent the breezes,
with the sweetness of perfume;
Everything is beauty,
crowned by skies of clearest blue,
Mother Earth is at her best,
once more for me and you.

Down the lanes of August,
with her blossoms at our feet,
Rich with gold and scarlet,
dripping wet with honey sweet.
Rich or poor, no matter,
here are splendors spread,
Down the lanes of August,
for all who wish to tread.

—By Edgar Albert Guest



Faith Lutheran Church		2025
STAFF		
Interim Pastor	Pastor Dorthy Nielsen	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Hart's Janitorial	
CHURCH COUNCIL		
President	Gordy Gamet	
Vice President	Terry Virnig	
Secretary	Mary Sabatka Gamet	
Treasurer	Janice Lee Virnig	
Financial Secretary	Alice Weber	
Education/Youth	Vacant	
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen	
Fellowship & Social	Peggy Preston	
Property Management	Terry Virnig (Acting)	
Stewardship & Resources	Vacant	
Worship & Music	George Hunt	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	



Financials as of 7/25/25.

Undesignated Income: \$3,939.97
 Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$5,416.66
 Net Undesignated Income: (\$1,476.69)
 Total Expenses: \$5,414.47
 Total Net Income: \$3,993.50

Church Announcements and Events

5

Contact Pr. Cindy Robles for Emergency Pastoral Care

If you have a need for emergency pastoral care, please contact Pr. Cindy at 563-845-8221.

Men's Breakfast—8:30am

Tuesdays, Ongoing

Men's group meets for breakfast every Tuesday at 8:30am at either Sweetwaters Restaurant or Brick & Mortar Restaurant (alternating weeks). All men are welcome!

August 5 & 19 at Sweetwaters — August 12 & 26 at Brick & Mortar

Prayer Chain:



We are asking those who are part of the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran congregants on a weekly basis and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. This can be as simple as taking a few seconds to ask God to be with those listed, lifting each one up by name. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: pegprestonn@aol.com

Quilting and TOPs

Wednesdays @ 9am



Wednesday mornings are a busy time at Faith Lutheran Church. We have quilters working to create comforting quilts that are donated to bring people warmth, privacy and shelter. If you are interested in joining them, there is always plenty to do.

TOPs (stands for The Old People, though age is not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have able hands and a willing heart, the TOPs will always welcome some help.

Food Collection for F.I.S.H. of Albany



We are collecting non-perishable food items FISH of Albany. Donations can be placed in one of the baskets in the parking lot entryway.

*** Please check expiration date markings - FISH cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.*



Mary Martha Circle

This is a Bible Study for women. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**. If you would like more information, please call: Karen Glenn at (541) 928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at (541) 967-8309.

Annual School Supply Drive

Sales will begin soon in local stores so it's the perfect time to begin collecting items for the Annual School Supply Drive. Education is important for any community, but especially where poverty or disaster have limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School kits that contain essential supplies can help ensure they can continue learning despite the hardships they face. The goal is for 75 kits to be donated through Lutheran World Relief.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH SCHOOL KIT:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8 x 10 ½"
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One 2 ½ inch pink eraser
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons

SCHOOL SUPPLIES WILL BE COLLECTED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2025



August 2025 Worship Schedule

August	10:30am	Worship
August	10:30am	Worship
August	10:30am	Worship
August	10:00am	Worship at GSLC
August	10:00am	Worship at GSLC

Worship Leaders Team 2025

August	3	10	17	24	31
Assisting Ministers	Shirley	Carol O.	Janice	N/A	N/A
Altar Prep	George	George	Jon A.	N/A	N/A
Ushers	Dick	Dick	Dick	N/A	N/A
Sound Technicians	Gordy	John A.	Terry	N/A	N/A



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	2
3 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Nick Droge	4 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwaters 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	6 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	7 1:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	8 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	9
10 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Dorthy Nielsen	11 12:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 8:30am - 9:30am Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	13 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	14 1:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	15 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	16 Faith Lutheran Diamond Anniversary
17 Faith Lutheran Diamond Anniversary 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming with Pr. Nick Doversberger 11:30am Anniversary Reception	18 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 8:30am Men's Breakfast at Sweetwaters 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	20 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	21 1:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	22 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	23
24 10:00am - 11:00am Worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	25 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 8:30am - 9:30am Men's Breakfast at Brick & Mortar 3:00pm - 6:00pm Jackson Street - Academic Tutoring	27 9:00am Quilters & TOPs	28 1:00pm - 8:00pm W/C Classes- Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 8:00pm Jackson Street - Support Group	29 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	30
31 10:00am - 11:00am Worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church						

Prayer List

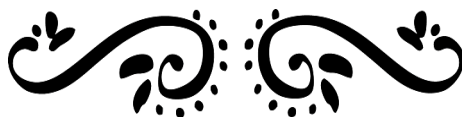
*PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE
NEEDING STRENGTH, GUIDANCE AND HEALING:*

Tim Berg	Chuck	Karen Glenn
Brenda Carroll	Carol Olufson	Billy Tamblin
Sandy Hina	Vanessa Munro	Monica Johnson
Linda Gail Voet	Jim Preston	Keith Baarsch
Noah Holman	Virginia	Jeannette Thorpe
Gigi Douglas	Gabriel	Peggy Preston
John Busher	Frank Perry	Nancy George
Julie Shaw	David	Grace Chadwick
Nicholas Glass	Mitch Mueller	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Sangsau Tran, Margaret Rowland, Melba Wright

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES:



Prayer for Every Day

Almighty God, you fill all things with your presence. In your great love, keep us near you this day. Grant that in all our ways and doings we may remember that you see us, and may always have grace to know and perceive what things you would have us do, and give us strength to do the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



WHO AM I?

*Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets?
Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines.
Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.*

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.
I am ____ ____ .
2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.
I am ____ ____ .
3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.
I am ____ ____ .
4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort.
It is book 23.
I am ____ ____ .
5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.
I am ____ ____ .
6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials.
My book is number 24.
I am ____ ____ .
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.
I am ____ ____ .
8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.
I am ____ ____ .

Prophets are ____ .



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2025

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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